

Stern et al.

S/N: 10/063,998

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed July 28, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 8-11, 16, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Smith et al. (USP 6,594,673) and San Andres et al. (USP 5,956,489). Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, and 17-21 were then rejected as being unpatentable over Smith et al., San Andres et al., and Knight et al. (USP 6,721,748). Responsive thereto, Applicant has filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination and has amended claims 1, 2, 6, 10-12, 17, and 22 and requests consideration and examination thereof.

The amendments made herein are believed to further define the invention as claimed over the art of record. Specifically, claims 1-21 are directed to the automatic determination of one or more computerized bulletin boards a given post to a given computerized bulletin board may relate by reviewing the text of the body of the post as opposed to relying simply on a subject field identifier, as done in the prior art. Claim 22 has been amended to represent the after-final amendment made September 15, 2005. Specifically, the computerized system of networked bulletin boards as defined by claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the means for automatically placing a copy of a user post onto other content-specific bulletin boards does so "without copying all other user posts of the set of content-specific bulletin boards."

Regarding claims 1-21, the combined teachings of Smith et al. and San Andres et al., assuming a requisite motivation to combine is present (Applicant does not concede that such a motivation is in fact present), fail to render the invention of claims 1-21 obvious. That is, Smith et al. teaches a visualization for collaborative information system whereby "newsgroup nodes are linked together by links representing messages that are cross-posted between the newsgroups." Abstract. That is, Smith et al. teaches a system whereby links are used to cross-post messages rather than copying the post to the various cross-related newsgroups. Applicant acknowledged as much in the reliance of San Andres et al. in combination with Smith et al. See OFFICE ACTION, July 28, 2005, p. 3. Moreover, Smith et al. teaches that the various cross-related newsgroups are determined from "information [that] is obtained from the header of each posting in the selected set of newsgroups." Col. 7, ll. 61-62. Thus, Smith et al. *explicitly* teaches that the *header* rather than the body of a post is used to determine the cross-relevancies of a given post. Therefore, notwithstanding the teaching of San Andres et al., Smith et al. cannot be relied upon for rejecting claims 1-21 that call for determining any cross-relevancies from the body of the post.

Regarding claim 22, the claim has been amended to further define the means to automatically place a copy of the user posts on each content-specific bulletin board to which the

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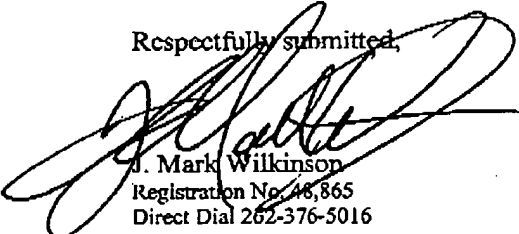
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post relates and on the content general bulletin board as doing so without copying all other user posts of the set of content-specific bulletin boards. San Andres et al. teaches a system whereby "the server side of each online service is preferably implemented using one of the following: (1) a single application server 120, (2) a set of 'replicated' application servers (i.e., application servers which are on the same server as application or applications) that provide access to replicated (and locally-stored) copies of service 'content' data (i.e., data provided to end users' of the service), or (3) a set of replicated application servers that provide access to server-specific (non-replicated) service content data." Col. 6, ll. 22-32. Thus, San Andres et al., which the Examiner relied upon for the replication of data, such as user posts, is explicit in that the servers as a whole are replicated. As such, all the data of one server is replicated on another server. As such, there is no discrimination between the copying of the data. Claim 22, however, in effect, calls for the discriminatory copying of user posts. That is, not all user posts are copied. Thus, Applicant respectfully believes that claim 22 is directed to subject matter patentably distinct from that taught and/or suggested by Smith et al. and San Andres et al.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-22.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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